PROTECTOR OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES—DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF

56. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Protector of the Depressed Classes has any statutory duties or whether the Government have passed any orders defining the work and responsibilities of the Protector;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, such provisions of law or orders may be printed and placed on the table of the House?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) The work, responsibilities and powers of the Protector of the Depressed Classes have not been defined or any rules have been codified for the same. As the Head of the Department, the Protector has got complete powers over the Department subject, however, to Government control.

(*b*) Answer not necessary.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether there were certain meetings in some of the Depressed Classes colonies presided over by the Protector of the Depressed Classes defending certain orders of Government and creating public opinion thereon.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* He is entitled to do that, to explain things. If he thinks that explanation is necessary he is entitled to do so, so that they may understand the true significance of an order. That is part of his work.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether it is a good policy to allow Heads of Departments to preside over meetings and to discuss upon very controversial subjects?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sometimes a man presides without knowing the nature of the discussion and the views the speaker is going to express. I have seen members of this House expressing views which, later, on, the person who presides finds as transgressing the rules of Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know what was the subject explained by the Protector of the Depressed Classes?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Protector has explained a number of subjects.

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Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Some complicated abstruse subject was explained by the Protector.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: There are various abstruse difficult subjects in this world. If you want the nature of it, please give me notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether it was with regard to stopping of concessions of the Depressed Classes pupils who become Christians?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I am only giving this assurance. Take it or leave it. There never has been directly or indirectly any explanation either to persuade or to influence anybody by any Government officer. This is a comprehensive statement.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: When meetings are held in Government colonies and the Head of the Department presides over those meetings and when resolutions are passed when the Head of the Department is there, the presumption is that it is with some Government connivance that they are passing such resolutions.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The presumption is absolutely wrong and unfounded. The president is not responsible for the resolutions passed at a public meeting. Sometimes the presidents are placed in an awkward position by resolutions passed. No responsible Government will take serious notice of the conduct of the president because the resolution passed is unfavourable to the Government. The president is placed in an awkward position. He has got limited powers to conduct the meeting properly. He can only preside. He cannot say: "This resolution is not pleasing to the Government. You shall not pass it." Unless you lay down that no Government officer should preside over any meeting, they can do it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur)*: Will not the president be aware of the agenda?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Resolutions are not given on the agenda. Generally they are not published.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will not the president be aware of the nature of the resolutions?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The resolutions are not published. I do not know the experience of the Hon'ble Members.

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Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Does the Hon'ble Minister go to the extent of saying that Government servants presiding over meetings can escape scot-free, if a resolution which is seditious is passed in that meeting?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is a hypothetical question. I never said sedition.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Does the Hon'ble Minister admit that the resolutions that have been passed are resolutions which could not have been passed without the assistance of the Government officer? Does the Hon'ble Minister concede that a Government servant should be a party to that resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Why should he be a party? He can only preside over the meeting. It is immaterial whether the president agrees to the resolution or not. His business is to conduct the meeting properly.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Does the Hon'ble Minister concede that he could be a party to the resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is a hypothetical question. If you tell me the exact position, I will be able to say "yes" or "no".

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* It is not a hypothetical question. Is it objectionable to the Government officer to pass a resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What is the nature of the resolution?

Mr. President: You are asking for the Hon'ble Minister's opinion.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Can a public servant take part or preside at a public meeting where political subjects are discussed and resolutions are passed?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* All these have been given in the Standing Orders for their guidance. If they violate the Standing Orders, action will be taken.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Was any action taken against the Protector?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No, because he has not violated the Standing Orders.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* It was on a highly political and controversial subject.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. President: If you know it, why do you ask it?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: മറവ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടുമേലധികാരികളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷകനും പ്രസംഗിക്കുകയും ആദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യം കൂടുതലില്ലേ?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* ഉണ്ട്. It is one of his main items of work, and I have requested him, whenever he goes to instruct, to educate and preside over meetings so that he may instruct them.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: അധഃകൃത ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമല്ലാതെ വല്ല ഹൈ പൊളിറ്റിക്സിനെപ്പറ്റിയും അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകൻ പറഞ്ഞതായിട്ടു വല്ല റിപ്പോർട്ടും കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഇല്ല.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* No high politics involved in this Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What is the politics in this Department? I am not going to answer any hypothetical question. A question of "supposing" I am not going to answer.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What will be the attitude of the Government if a resolution is passed against a Government order?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It will be considered at the proper time.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it proper on the part of Government servants to enter into controversies on subjects in which the Legislative Council and the Advisory Committees constituted under the Legislative Council Rules have passed certain opinions?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If it violates the Standing Orders, he must be taken to task.

UPLIFT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES—EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN 1116 ON ACQUISITION OF SITES, ETC.

57. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the amount spent in 1116 for acquisition of sites for habitation of depressed classes from the funds allotted for "colonies" in the Uplift of the Depressed Classes Budget;

(*b*) amount spent in 1116 for other purposes from the same sub-head (colonies)?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Rs. 900—14—0.

(*b*) (1) Thatching and P. C. R. Rs. 1,530. The balance amount of Rs. 1,970 will be required for payment to

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